

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5-6, and 12-15 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane and defining first and second opposed surfaces opposed to each other;

a first stable electrode column fixed to a base substrate having a top surface aligned along the basement plane;

a second stable electrode column fixed to the top surface of the base substrate at a location spaced from the first stable electrode;

a first stable electrode wall connected to the first stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said first stable electrode wall being opposed to the first opposed surface of the movable electrode;

~~a first stable electrode column fixed to the basement plane and coupled to an end of the first stable electrode wall;~~

a second stable electrode wall connected to the second stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said second stable electrode wall being opposed to the second opposed surface of the movable electrode; and

~~a second stable electrode column fixed to the basement plane and coupled to an end of the second stable electrode wall; and~~

an insulating solid piece connecting the first and second stable electrode walls.

2. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said insulating solid piece is made of any of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, alumina, glass and resin.

3. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said first and second stable electrode walls extend in parallel with each other.

4. (Original) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein said movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls.

5. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second stable electrode walls stands on the ~~basement~~ planebase substrate.

6. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second stable electrode walls is fixed to the ~~basement~~ planebase substrate with an insulating layer.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 3, wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between first and

second datum planes, the first datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall and the second datum plane being defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall.

11. (Previously presented) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein a distance between the first and second datum planes is larger than three times a wall thickness of the movable electrode.

12. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein each of the first and second stable electrode columns are formed as a square prism has a square section opposed to the base substrate, and sides of a square cross section of the prism the square section are set larger than three times a wall thickness of the movable electrode.

13. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, wherein the movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls, the movable electrode has a thickness  $W$  and each of the first and second stable electrode columns is fixed to the ~~basement plane~~ base substrate at a position having an area that is larger than  $9W^2$ .

14. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10, further comprising an insulating film interposed between the ~~basement plane~~base substrate and the first and second stable electrode columns.

15. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 14, further comprising:

a conductive wiring pattern extending on the ~~basement plane~~base substrate; and  
an electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the first and second stable electrode columns, the electrically conductive piece being surrounded by the insulating film.

16. (New) An electrostatic actuator comprising:  
a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane;  
a pair of stable electrodes, each of the pair of stable electrodes including an electrode column and an electrode wall connected to the electrode column, the electrode column having a width greater than a width of the electrode wall, the electrode wall having a wall surface opposed to the movable electrode; and  
an insulating solid piece connecting the electrode walls of the pair of stable electrodes,

wherein the electrode columns of the pair of stable electrodes are disposed between datum planes, and the datum planes are defined to respectively include the wall surfaces of the electrode walls.